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Altos

News



PINHEIROS ALTOS
GOLF, SPA & HOTELS

Introduction from the Captain - Mr Stewart Harper

The AGM took place in the clubhouse on the 2nd of April and over 100 members attended.

David Pirret reported on the year's progress and I repeat my and the club's thanks for all that was achieved by him and his committee in a year that seemed to pass so quickly!

We now have a structured organisation, new rules and even a "charter" as to what the members can expect from the owners in relation to the course, club house and amenities offered to the members. More work may still be done on the "charter".

I tried to cover what I consider to be the challenges we face in 2015/16 in my speech. I believe that we are members of an exceptional club, with members who love their golf and want their club to be the best in the Algarve.

I welcomed Knut Pederson as our new Vice-Captain; he is a very important addition to the committee, representing Northern Europe and Scandinavian members, and is well liked by all.

The AGM was followed by my drive-in and whilst the swing looks ok on Shirley's photos, the result was not my best; my second "Mulligan" carrying the ball at least 50 yards further!

Both the Nine Hole Scramble, the subsequent Spring Medal and Easter Sunday Scramble were played in excellent weather. The

latter followed by a buffet, which was attended by no less than 145 members who had played. I am leaving it to Christophe to announce the winners but well done to all of them.

Cathy and I are the first husband and wife Captain and Lady Captain, and we are conscious that there is a lot of golf ahead of us! The amount of golf is a challenge but we hope to play all the competitions where possible and attend all the social functions, while at the same time being conscious we cannot do everything!

I announced that in our efforts to support ACCA as our charity of choice, we would be running a Mixed Four Ball Challenge over the year, with a luncheon hosted by us for all competitors at year end with a collection for ACCA. The list will go up shortly with consideration being given to competitions and holidays. I should add the couple who beat us by the best number of holes up over 18 will receive a prize! We hope to do a weekly match if possible!

There is much more I could say, but as I am now doing two reports (Greens to follow), I close by thanking all our friends and members alike who have been so supportive over the year, as have all the staff, and wish you good health and good golf for 2015/16.



Incoming Captain and Director of Golf



Immediate Past Captain with his Last Trophy as Captain and Wife Zoë



Immediate Past Captains



President David Markey and Club Captain Stewart Harper



Club Captain Stewart Harper and Vice-Captain Knut Pedersen



Club Captain Stewart Harper and Ladies Vice-Captain Mai Markey



Captains Drive-In



Captains Drive-In Competition Winners Andy and Sue Georges



Captains Drive-In Competition Winners Eva Lamaison, Steve Quail, Shona and Iain Callaghan and Paul Jervis



Sandra Seddon, Remo Cherubini and Ingrid Hollier



Joanna Young, Lisa Burns and Malcolm Hollier



Paula Burke Hickey, Tony Hickey and Helen Mills

Director of Golf - Monthly Report

It is hard to believe that we are already in April and that we have just had another Members AGM.

The month of March was a very busy month leading to the Easter break and the AGM. I would like to congratulate David Pirret, the out-going Club Captain, and Adrienne Buth, the out-going Lady Captain, on a very successful year. It has been a pleasure to work with them during this year on the Golf Committee.

I would like to welcome Stewart and Cathy Harper as the incoming Captains and wish them a very good year in office.

A big thank you to Graeme Thomson and Rie Cherubini who are leaving the Golf Committee this year. Their input and knowledge have been very welcome in the various committees. I am sure I can continue to count on them for their advice in the future.

Also, I would like to thank our President Mr. David Markey and congratulate him on his first year in the chair, which has not always been easy but he came out very successful.

At the AGM I announced some changes to competition rules. The first is that Medal and Stablefords will have Men and Ladies prizes from now onwards. This mainly ensures men manage to win competition prizes, as many felt it was not fair to compete with ladies! It was also announced that no-returns in competition will not count for the eclectic score as from the AGM.

During the month of November until end of February, the Men's Roll-up will start at 8h30 and the draw will be made at 8h20. Also, the Ladies Days will have starting times between 9h30 and 11h00 during this period. This will hopefully help having more players for both of these competitions.

We have now finalized the programme for the Sunshine Classic Gala Week, which you can find the entry form for within this newsletter. If you have any queries about the week, do not hesitate to contact the Golf Office.

March saw the Men's Pairs Matchplay, which was won by Kelvin White and Tony Hickey, who beat Hamish Rumball and Nevin Prakash in the final round.



Men's Pairs Matchplay Winners Tony Hickey and Kelvin White

The Past Captain's Trophy was played on the 4th of April 2015 and won by Keith Fletcher with 37 points, who also won the

Spring Medal played on the same day with a nett 71. I have had great pleasure in cutting Keith's handicap by 0.8. We had a very enjoyable lunch following the competition with 10 other past Captains and thank you goes to the in-coming Captain Mr. Stewart Harper for hosting it.

The St. David's Medal was won by Sally Evans, while Tony Hickey won the St. Patrick's Day Stableford as a good Irish Day obliges.

April will see the Strokeplay Championships, which seems very well supported and we will report on the Easter Scramble in the next newsletter.

I wish you all good golfing!



St David's Day Winner Sally Evans

Competition Results for March

Date	Competition	Winner	Score	Runner Up	Score
Sun 1st	St David's Day Stableford	Sally Evans	39 Pts	Josie Waddington	36 Pts
Wed 4th	Ladies Day Monthly Medal	1st Division Sally Evans	72 Nett	1st Division Sue Georges	76 Nett
		2nd Division Pat Murrish	71 Nett	2nd Division Pat Murrish	74 Nett (bbn)
Wed 11th	Ladies Day		Matchplay		
Sun 15th	St Patrick's Day Medal	Tony Hickey	72 Pts	Knut Ellingsen	73 Pts
Wed 18th	Ladies Day Monthly Stableford	1st Division Nancy Schofield	33 Pts	1st Division Sally Evans	30 Pts
		2nd Division Diana Collins	28 Pts		
Thur 19th - Sun 22nd	Men's Pairs Matchplay	Tony Hickey Kelvin White		Hamish Rumball Nevin Prakash	
Wed 25th	Ladies Day Madrinha Trophy	Adrienne Buth Shona Callaghan	35 Pts	Denise Reed Vera Watkins	34 Pts

Ladies Section - by Cathy Harper

On the 30th of March, I “drove-in” as Lady Captain 2015. Fortunately the drive was straight and fairly respectable. Mariëd Kooijmans put her flag nearest to where the ball landed and won the bottle of Champagne. The weather was perfect and the following Nine Hole Competition was won by Dee Hirst and Fiona Thomson.

We thanked Adrienne Buth for an excellent year in office at our AGM. She has dealt with all the ladies’ needs with patience and good humour. Zoë Pirret and Rie Cherubini left the committee after three years hard work, and we welcomed Sue Georges and Lisa Burns onto the committee, and Helen Mills as a consultant member.



Lady Captain Cathy Harper and Ladies Vice-Captain Mai Markey



Janet Leffler and Zoë Pirret



Lady Captain, Adrienne Buth and Rie Cherubini



Fiona Thomson, Mai Markey and Bernadette Hardie



Yvonne White, Ingrid Hollier and Dee Hirst



Mariëd Kooijmans, Lady Captain, Adrienne Buth and Anne Tucker-Brown



Lady Captain Cathy Harper

It was wonderful to present Adrienne and her playing partner Shona Callaghan with the Madrinha Trophy – a perfect way for Adrienne to finish her year.

Sally Evans won the Wainwright Trophy, with Margo Fletcher as runner-up.

Hilary Jessup triumphed over Denise Reed in the Plate, after a hard fought match. Well done to you all.



Melaura Parker, Nancy Schofield and Janet Leffler

The first competition of my year was a Medal. The 1st Division being won by Sally Evans and the 2nd by Lisa Burns, both with excellent scores of 70 nett.

The Easter Scramble was enjoyed by everyone and was followed by lunch and prizes.

Thank you for your support and may 2015 be a year of good golf and good health for you all.



Molly Wainwright Presenting the Wainwright Trophy to Sally Evans and Runner-Up Margo Fletcher



Plate Winner Hilary Jessup



Plate Runner-Up Denise Reed



Easter Celebrations

Final Report from Adrienne Buth

- Immediate Past Lady Captain

March 2015, my last month as Lady Captain of Pinheiros Altos. Do I need to tell you again how much I enjoyed it?

The Medal Glasses on the 4th of March were won by Sally Evans and Pat Murrish, with nett scores of 72 and 71 respectively. This time the 2nd division was bigger than the 1st.

The Matchplay format the week after was well received and there were 16 players.

Nancy Schofield and Diana Collins won the Qualifying Stableford on the 18th of March and 28 ladies could play for the Madrinha Trophy on the 25th!

Because it was my last Wednesday as Lady Captain, we had decided to have a festive prize presentation with snacks and drinks, which we could afford from the surplus in the kitty. The format for the Madrinha is Greensomes and that gives every team the chance to start with a perfect drive of a lower handicap and (we have run out of true beginners) giving the higher handicap the chance to show how good their short game is! Not only was the wind coming from the right direction, for the first time I could be a Madrinha (= Godmother) because of my handicap. My partner Shona Callaghan had beautiful shots

to the green, enabling us to make pars on holes, which both of us had only ever dreamed of. With a score of 35 points we had the first prize. Congratulations to the other winning teams: the second prize went to Denise Reed and Vera Watkins, and the third prize to Zoë Pirret and Diana Collins. Thank you goes out to the restaurant staff and Linda Bentley (shopping girl) for helping to make this day very special.

On Monday the 30th of March, the Ladies' AGM was well attended by 50 ladies, the Director, the President and the Captain. There will be a few changes in the Ladies Committee; we are going to miss Rie Cherubini (Past Lady Captain) and Zoë Pirret (golf rules and Eclectic specialist) who are leaving the committee. Sue Georges, Lisa Burns and Helen Mills will reinforce the team and help our new Lady Captain Cathy Harper and her Vice-Lady Captain Mai Markey.

I would like to thank the Golf Committee and especially David Pirret for his support during our year, and for the beautiful flowers I received the day of the AGM. I would like to thank all the ladies for their support, their nice e-mails, cards, small gifts, big gifts and for the generous gift Cathy presented me on the day of the Ladies' AGM. Very selfishly, I intend to travel next winter, probably to South Africa.



Shona Callaghan and Adrienne Buth receiving the Madrinha Trophy from the Lady Captain Cathy Harper



Madrinha Runners-Up Denise Reed and Vera Watkins with Adrienne Buth



Madrinha 3rd Place Diana Collins and Zoë Pirret

Report from the Greens Committee

Members will know that the weather has been very difficult over the last few weeks. We have had exceptional heat, 29/30°C on some days, and very little rain. Followed by a sudden cooling with heavy rain, which is expected later this week. These conditions are challenging to the Greens staff, particularly with a feed of fertilizer planned just before Easter and with the Greens seeding, which makes fast surfaces more difficult. The course looks untidy because the heavy watering, which took place to wash in the fertilizer, has caused worm casts and the fertilizer has not yet taken full effect! The Olives in particular looks worse (see below).

Our Agronomist Consultant Carlos Guerreiro played Nine Hole with Tony Hickey, Gordon Todd and myself last week and expressed a view that our main issues were:-

1. Too many trees causing shadows and effecting the grasses.
2. Poor drainage in some areas and new sprinklers needed where they had broken.
3. Poor fertility in some parts of the course and very hard sub soil on some fairways.

4. The Olives drainage could be cured or at least helped by an application of calcium, as he felt the levels of this chemical were too low (this has shown to be the case). An application has taken place on Olives but the course will and does look worse before it will look better! We hope the drainage will show a marked improvement when the chemical works into the soil.

5. Too much new sand in some of the bunkers! I and the committee were aware of this and we have made representations to Christophe who has visited the bunker before the 8th of Corks and asked for sand to be removed! Rumours that he had to be “dug out” of the bunker are exaggerated! There are other bunkers where there are similar problems. Hopefully this will be sorted very soon.

This is a difficult time of the year because expectations are so high for new growth and improved golfing surfaces; as ever we need to show patience and it is “work in progress”. We believe both Christophe and Carlos Rocha (Marketing Director of JJW) share our ambitions. I hope in our next report we will be able to report real progress.

Stewart Harper, Tony Hickey and Gordon Todd

Interclub by Christian Holst

The season is now well underway and as I am writing this I am just back from our second match against Quinta do Vale Away, which we lost 2-3 under very demanding conditions. We won our first match against Boavista at Home, with a good 4-1 result.

Our next match is at Home against Parque da Floresta on the 16th of April, which has probably been played by the time you read this.

There are no more matches after that until Quinta do Vale at Home on the 14th of May.

Proposed Trip to Loch Lomond

Thank you to all who replied to me. Unfortunately, possibly because of the choice of two dates, numbers are not really sufficient for either date. Consequently I propose to rearrange the outing to the weekend of the 6th and 7th of August 2016. This should hopefully give everyone enough time to arrange their diaries for this.

I would appreciate expressions of interest at your convenience.

Willie Paterson

Social Golf by Molly Wainwright

We couldn't have wished for a better day for our "Waltz" Competition. After a week of high winds, the weather gods really shone on us. We were a relatively small group for Social Golf, but that didn't matter and there were some very good scores.

As usual there was an atmosphere of great hilarity in the clubhouse afterwards, where we enjoyed our supper.

My thanks to our new Committee member Paula Burke Hickey, who worked very hard and kept me on my toes!

	<i>Olives to Pines</i>		<i>Pines to Corks</i>	
1st Place	Tony Hickey	83 Pts	Stewart Harper	82 Pts
	Helen Mills		Sandra Seddon	
	Alan Bentley		Paul Black	
	Linda Bentley		Molly Wainwright	
2nd Place	David Pirret	68 pts	Andy Georges	77 Pts
	Andy Watkins		Mai Markey	
	Stella Jeffrey		Malcolm Hollier	
	Meg Black		Vera Watkins	

The next Social Golf is "Yellow Ball" on the 19th of April, which will be organised by Iain Callaghan and Zoë Pirret.

PRO TIP - Ross Sutherland

Long Putting - Make a Free, Rhythmic Stroke to Develop Feel for Distance

As you get farther from the hole, distance becomes more important than direction. Consequently, mechanics take a back seat to feel. Longer putts require a freer range of motion on both the backswing and follow-through. As a result, your hands can be a little more flexible to impart a liberal amount of swing to your stroke. But that hand action isn't intentional or excessive. I simply let my wrists hinge naturally on the backswing.

Forthcoming Events April – May 2015

Wed 1st April	Ladies Day
Thurs 2nd April	Golf AGM and Captain's Drive In
Sat 4th April	Spring Medal and Past Captain's Day (No Men's Roll-Up)
Sun 5th April	Easter Scramble
Tues 7th April	APPA AGM, Competition and Dinner (No Club Roll-Up)
Wed 8th April	Ladies Day
Sat 11th April	Strokeplay Championship (No Men's Roll-Up)
Sun 12th April	Strokeplay Championship
Tues 14th April	Club Roll-Up
Wed 15th April	Ladies Day
Sat 18th April	Men's Roll-Up
Sun 19th April	18 Holes Social Golf
Tues 21st April	Club Roll Up
Wed 22nd April	Ladies Day
Sat 25th April	Men's Roll-Up
Sun 26th April	St George's Stableford
Tues 28th April	Club Roll-Up
Wed 29th April	Ladies Day
Sat 2nd May	Men's Roll-Up
Sun 3rd May	May Medal
Tues 5th May	Club Roll-Up
Wed 6th May	Ladies Day
Fri 8th May	The Ben Hogan Trophy QDL V PA
Sat 9th May	Men's Roll-Up and The Ben Hogan Trophy QDL V PA
Tues 12th May	Club Roll-Up
Wed 13th May	Ladies Day
Fri 15th May	Past Lady Captains Day
Sat 16th May	Men's Roll-Up
Sun 17th May	May Stableford
Tues 19th May	Club Roll-Up
Wed 20th May	Ladies Day
Thurs 21st May	Mixed Pairs Matchplay
Fri 22nd May	Mixed Pairs Matchplay
Sat 23rd May	Mixed Pairs Matchplay
Sun 24th May	Mixed Pairs Matchplay
Tues 26th May	Club Roll-Up
Wed 27th May	Ladies Invitation Day
Sat 30th May	Men's Roll-Up
Sun 31st May	18 Holes Social Golf

